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Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

(14-16 April 2004)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. In its resolution 58/213, the General Assembly endorsed the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/55, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene during the twelfth session of the Commission a three-day preparatory meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, from 14 to 16 April 2004, for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to finalize the preparations for the International Meeting, including its agenda.

Chapter II
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Commission, working as a three-day open-ended preparatory meeting, held two meetings (2nd and 3rd), on 14 and 15 April 2004, as well as a number of informal meetings.

3. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 April, the Chairman of the Commission at its twelfth session opened the session and made an opening statement.

4. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made an introductory statement.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the International Meeting, Anwarul K. Chowdhury, addressed the Commission.

6. At the same meeting, the Permanent Representative of the Bahamas made a statement.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman (Mauritius) of the Alliance of Small Island States introduced the draft strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, submitted by the Group of 77 and China.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, as well as the Acceding Countries, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; the Candidate Countries, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process; and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro), the United States of America, Tuvalu and the Russian Federation.

9. Also at the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand and Facilitator of the informal consultations made a statement.

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Commission heard an oral report on the outcome of the consultations facilitated by New Zealand on the preparations for the International Meeting.

B. Agenda and organization of work

11. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting adopted the draft provisional agenda for the International Meeting contained in document E/CN.17/2004/L.2, as orally revised. The agenda read as follows:

1. Opening of the International Meeting.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Election of officers other than the President.
5. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the International Meeting: accreditation of intergovernmental organizations and major groups.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee.
7. Credentials of representatives to the International Meeting:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate: comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
9. Adoption of the final outcomes of the International Meeting.
10. Adoption of the report of the International Meeting.
11. Closure of the International Meeting.

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 April 2004, the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting approved the requests for accreditation as observers to the International Meeting and its preparatory meeting of the non-governmental organizations and other major groups listed in document E/CN.17/2004/9.

C. Attendance

13. The session was attended by representatives of States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and secretariats of treaty bodies, as well as observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations, also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.17/2004/INF/1.

D. Documentation

14. The following documents were before the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/2004/8);

(b) Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and its preparatory meeting (E/CN.17/2004/9);

(c) Letter dated 26 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/2004/12).

Chapter III
Adoption of the report

15. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting had before it the draft report (E/CN.17/2004/L.4).

16. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report.

Chapter IV
Decisions adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting

17. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission acting as the preparatory meeting adopted the following decisions:

2004/1

The Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States authorized Ambassador Don Mackay (New Zealand) to continue his consultations after 30 April 2004 with a view to reaching agreement on the remaining pending issues for the preparations for the International Meeting.

2004/2

The Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, agreed to hold two-day informal consultations on 28 and 29 August 2004 in Mauritius prior to the International Meeting.

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